



# South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network

Mainstreaming Women's Agenda in the Post-Referendum  
Arrangements

## CONFERENCE R E P O R T



The Institute for  
Inclusive Security





# Acknowledgments

The South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network (SSWEN) takes this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed their expertise, knowledge, time and energy to make the conference a success. SSWEN acknowledges that without their contributions, talent and treasure this annual conference would not be possible. The timely topics, diverse speakers, and plenty of networking opportunities gave national and international participants a chance to gather together, share thoughts and experience firsthand other perspectives of the numerous issues affecting the Sudanese women

Special credit goes to the Assessment and Evaluation Commission for supporting our work. We also appreciate the gender expert team; Dr. Nada Mustafa Ali, an independent consultant, researcher and activist; Ms. Nancy Barasa a specialist in Gender and Human Rights Law; Ms. Grace Okonji a Gender and Development Expert; Ms. Meron Genne a Political and gender advisor to the African Union High Implementation Panel and the United Nation Women for providing gender experts.

We also extend our gratitude to the Minister of Gender, Child and Social welfare for the great support handling logistics and other conference related issues. The UNDP Southern Sudan Programme supported the conference by offering assistance in the planning process and providing media advisory support through the Democratic Governance Unit of UNDP and MDG's Unit. Thanks to our partner, the Institute for Inclusive Security, for co-affiliating the conference sessions. We also would like to show appreciation to the organizing committee and volunteers for working hard to ensure the conference was a success.

Special thanks go to our keynote speakers and guests. The Mainstreaming Women's Agenda in the Post-Referendum Arrangements Conference featured several keynote speakers including:

- H.E. Agnes Kwaje, *Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare/Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS)* who officially opened and closed the conference
- H.E. Pagan Amum, *Minister of Peace and CPA Implementation and Secretary General for Sudan Liberation Movement*
- H.E. Amira Al Fadil, *Minister of Welfare and Social Security/Government of National Unity*
- H.E. Awut Deng Acuil, *Minister of Labor and Public Service/GoSS*
- H.E. Dr. Priscilla Nyanyang, *Minister without Portfolio in the office of the GoSS president*
- Madam Angelina Teny, *Member of the Economic Cluster Working Group/Post Referendum Arrangements*
- Senator Mobina Jaffer, *Liberal Senator representing the Province of British Columbia/Canada*
- Meron Genene, *Political and Gender Officer/African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP)*
- Hon. Njoki Ndungu, *former Commissioner with the Construction Review Commission of Kenya (CRCK)*

## Special guests

- Professor Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil, *Chairperson of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission*
- Hon. Justice Chan Rec, *Chairperson of the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau*. Details of the keynote presentations and speeches can be found in Appendix 2 (page 18).



# Introduction

The Mainstreaming Women's Agenda in the Post-Referendum Arrangements conference was organized by the South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network (SSWEN) in collaboration with the Institute for Inclusive Security under the auspices of the Government of South Sudan Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare. The UN Women and UNDP provided financial support from the Assessment and Evaluation Commission. The conference took place at the New Sudan Palace in Juba from February 17-19, 2011

This report highlights the preparation, work and outcomes of the conference. It was compiled with the aim of serving both as an analysis of gender perspectives along the four clusters of the negotiations progress and as a guide for advocacy.

The mission of SSWEN is to empower Sudanese women through programs that support and encourage women's rights, education, policy advocacy, and organizational development.

Our aim is to help South Sudanese women achieve economic, social, and gender justice in Sudan's civil society sector by building healthy and peaceful communities within our country, with human rights for all.



# Table of Contents

Summary	4
Why, who and how	
Background	5
Setting the scene	
Executive	6-15
Decisions and principal recommendations	
Action	16
Additional recommendations	
Appendix 1	17
Conference evaluation	
Appendix 2	18
Conference presentations	



# Summary

Over 100 hundred women from all over Sudan gathered together between 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February 2011 to deliberate and ensure ensure that women's concerns, experiences, and priorities are central to on-going negotiations on post-referendum arrangements.

The conference builds upon and complements previous and ongoing efforts by civil society throughout Sudan towards the support of more transparent and inclusive political processes. It echoes and incorporates local, national and international conventions, resolutions and agreements that promote gender equality and women's participation.

This conference could not have come at a more critical time. Having ensured a peaceful and successful referendum, parties are resuming talks on a broad range of critical issues that are not yet resolved. In a bid to ensure more representation for women in the negotiations, the conference sought to respond to the urgent need to form consensus and identify the gender-specific priorities of women in relation to the post-referendum negotiations.

Participants at this historic conference were draw from all the 10 South Sudan states, Khartoum and other states and regions in the North, Darfur, Southern Kordofan Southern Blue Nile states and the Diaspora. They represent people from civil society, the grassroots, government and legislatures. Others include gender experts, facilitators and legislators from neighboring countries in Africa, Europe and North America.

Participants and guests included Government of National Unity, Government of South Sudan and state ministers and parliamentarians, members of the clusters negotiating post-referendum arrangements and the Joint Technical Secretariat, the South Sudan Referendum Commission, and the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel.

The conference was aimed at building upon and complementing previous and ongoing efforts by civil society in the entire Sudan towards supporting a more transparent and all inclusive political processes. It echoes and incorporates local, national, and international conventions, resolutions, and agreements that promote gender equality and women's full participation.

Those in attendance listened to informative presentations from SPLM Team Leader of the post-referendum negotiations, *Joint Technical Secretariat* and the Gender Advisor to the African Union High Implementation Panel (AUHIP). They formed working groups that would develop concrete, urgent recommendations on the four clustered themes of the negotiations: security, citizenship, economic and natural resources, international treaties and other legal issues.

The recommendations of the four working groups are published in this report (pages 6-15). Further more, the conference agreed on additional areas for urgent attention as highlighted in (page 16).

## Updates

Following the conference a group of selected participants are now in the process of setting up a working group of eminent women personalities from both South and North Sudan.



## Background

During post referendum period, there is a serious risk of facing continued marginalization in representation, governance, resource allocation and protection of women.

Women's voices are still largely absent from the ongoing negotiation. Neither of the party's six-member negotiating teams includes effective woman, and within the four cluster working groups women are present only to a limited extent (for example, of 54 members appointed to the Sudan People Liberation Movement's, only 5 are women) and the National Congress Party has few women in the economic cluster, this scenario poses serious impact on women, especially in the citizenship cluster.

It is against this background that the South Sudan Women Empowerment Network (SSWEN) committed to engaging various actors in the post referendum negotiations with the view of positioning the Women Agenda firmly on the negotiation table.

This two-day conference played a key role in meeting this commitment. It addressed the urgent need to form consensus and identify the gender-specific priorities of women as they relate to the post-referendum negotiations.

With this, and continuing progress since the conference, SSWEN is still working towards ensuring more representation for women in the on-going negotiations.



# Executive

The conference participants came from within Sudan and the Diaspora. After being taken through the current state of affairs in regards to the talks, participants divided themselves into Working Groups to examine the four clustered themes of the negotiations. Analysis, decisions and recommended action are detailed below under each of the four themes:

1. Gender and Security
2. Citizenship
3. Economic and natural resources
4. International treaties and other legal issues



# 1 Gender and Security

Security and lack of the same affects women and girls in gender-specific ways and impacts on their daily lives. Unequal power relations between women and men, and between women, often shape women's experiences of security, violence and instability. These issues also shape women's and girls' responses and their possible roles as peace-builders.

Sudan has signed The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and several other international human rights conventions. These accord women and girls in both Northern and Southern Sudan the right to life, integrity and security of the person and to protection from harmful cultural practices. In this regard, women's views and their role in early warning and in preventing conflict should be central to post-referendum negotiations on security and a gender perspective should permeate the discussions in this cluster.



## Themes and action points

### 1.1 The militarization of society as a result of war

Following years of conflict, several communities in Sudan have faced militarization, especially in those areas that were directly affected by war. As a result, there has been a general increase of insecurity, escalating cases of crimes such as murder, robbery, violence as well as sexual violence. Women have bore the greatest brand of these crimes and this has translated into fear and restriction on women's movement and on their bodily integrity. Therefore, there is a need for intensive research to establish the extent of insecurity and gender-based violence in different parts of Sudan.

### 1.2 Easy access to small arms

Easy access to small arms and lack of (enforcement) of laws prohibiting the illegal use and trade of these arms further contribute to the militarization of society. One participant disclosed that in Yambio there are massive numbers of small arms. However, the area chiefs are encouraging people not to hand them in. The effects on women and families are severe.

Several women participants raised the concern that cattle keepers were armed. In the absence of strict regulations, laws and lack of proper enforcement of existing laws, victims often have no recourse and use guns to steal other people's cattle, which often lead to cycles of violence.

Discussion also included examples of the use of guns, including those by ex-combatants, to facilitate the sexual abuse of women which can have severe effects on the health of women and that of the community at large.

#### ACTION:

- Enact and/or enforce laws against the illegal possession and use of arms, as these are often used to subjugate women and abuse them sexually

- *Research and address* the adverse effects of economic disempowerment of young men and women; and dowry responsibilities on men, women and communities, and address harmful cultural practices

## 2. The existence of military barracks within communities

In several states in South Sudan, military units have fought and caused civilian casualties. A participant cited the example of a recent clash in Upper Nile between Sudan Armed Forces over whether or not to return to the North which caused many civilian casualties.

In addition, sex trade flourishes around military barracks and women are exposed to sexual and other forms of gender-based violence.

### ACTION:

- *Military Barracks* should be outside villages and towns
- *Gender Sensitization* should be part of military and police training in the North and the South
- *Cooperation on capacity strengthening* of the armed and police forces should include training and capacity building around gender and women's rights and protection

## 3. Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of male and female former combatants

DDR of both male and female combatants affects women and girls in divergent ways. Incomplete DDR results in groups of young men (and women) with limited economic resources or options in life, which increases violence against women at the household level, alcohol abuse and insecurity at community level.

DDR of female combatants and women associated with the military as cooks or in other capacities needs to take into account their specific needs as women and the needs of their dependents. Former female combatants are often vulnerable to various forms of violence, including sexual abuses. They are stigmatized by society and they often have limited access to resources to maintain families and children where they are sometimes the sole heads.

### ACTION:

- *Ensure the formation of technical committees* to identify and address specific needs of female combatants and their dependents in the DDR process

### 3.1 dismantling of the Joint Integrated Units and relocation of Southern officers in the North to their areas and vice

Participants questioned the status of the Northern Sudanese in the south and the Southern Sudanese in the North who work in the army, police, or any other security agencies. The women cautioned against forced relocation and discussed problems that may arise if this issue is not urgently handled. This may include commitments to family members and benefits and pensions.

### ACTION:

- *Address the gender-specific needs* of military and police families in mixed (North/South) marriages and the needs of their dependents. This includes laws to protect widows and divorced women's rights

## 4. Return of Southerners in the North (including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)) and Northerners in the South

Mass population movements raise critical needs for ensuring food security and upscaling healthcare and other services. Women and girls may face attacks and sexual violence while on migrating from one place to another. Women can also face serious challenges to their security and safety because of landmines.

### ACTION:

- *Security of civilians and IDPs during repatriation and relocation* should be a priority, and humanitarian packages should cater for the specific needs of women and girls, including their reproductive health needs, and the needs of people receiving healthcare.
- Southerners in the North and Northerners in the South, especially women, will need *sufficient time to make the transition* upon deciding on citizenship. This applies to women and men accessing education, healthcare services, and other areas. As such, women recommended an interim period of 5 years for citizenship choice. In addition, both states should ensure free access to healthcare, education, employment, and in other areas to citizens of both states.

## 5. Protection of the needs of mixed-marriage (North/South) families

Women discussed the security concerns of children in mixed (North/South) marriage families. They also discussed children who are the product of rape during the war. Those are already isolated and face violence; they could as well be the victims of violence in the community.

### ACTION:

- *Establish structures* to meet the psychosocial security and other needs of mixed-marriage families and of children born as the result of rape during the war
- *Provisions to protect the rights* of such individuals should be part of the discussions in the Citizenship Cluster



## 6. Border Demarcation

The team expressed concern on the specific effect of border demarcation on women and girls. Lack of security along the borders can have devastating effects on women and girls in villages closer to the borders. One participant said women are already experiencing violence at the hands of some of the pastoralist tribes that go deep into the South annually. Another participant warned that if wide-scale violence erupts and has an ethnic dimension, then women might even be more affected and vulnerable to sexual violence because in such cases the rape of women can be a tool of humiliating the whole community on either sides of the conflict.

#### ACTION:

- *Involve communities* in the border areas in discussions of border demarcation
- *Make provisions in discussions of Citizenship* to facilitate peaceful crossing of borders for pastoralist communities
- *Involve women* in conflict -management and acknowledge their role in early warning

## 7. The situation of SPLA Combatants in Southern Kordofan area and the Southern Blue Nile

Several participants said the discussions of security should not focus only on the North *versus* the South. In particular, participants raised concerns regarding SPLA members from South Kordofan state/ Nuba Mountains and from the Southern Blue Nile state. They also deliberated on the status of SPLA soldiers from these two areas in the South. They went ahead to suggest that popular consultations should inform the decision on the status of these forces so as to avoid the eruption of violence in the region. If this happens, a population already severely affected by years of social, economic, political and cultural marginalization and war will be devastat. These are conditions that are often marked by violence against women and girls.

#### ACTION:

- *Ensure an arrangement for SPLA* in Southern Kordofan and the Southern Blue Nile that is based on the recommendations and aspirations of the people of these states expressed through popular consultations so as to avoid the re-eruption of violence, instability in both the North and the South, and sexual violence against women and girls
- *Implement the recommendations* related to gender-based violence listed elsewhere in this document

## Crosscutting Issues

### Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Gender-based violence including sexual violence against women and girls and the fear of GBV came out as a crosscutting issue in relation to the themes discussed above. There are however currently no statistics on the scale of GBV including sexual violence in North and South Sudan. But GBV is a very likely (and at times deliberate) outcome of outbreaks of violence be it related to lack of consensus on key issues in post-referendum negotiations or in relation to all the themes discussed above. There is a particular history of gender-based violence associated with Sudan's wars in Darfur, South Sudan and elsewhere.

What is more, experience in other countries show that post-conflict societies often witness an upsurge in community and domestic violence. Towards curbing this, negotiating parties should make strong commitments through policies and programs so as to address gender-based violence in North and South Sudan.

#### ACTION:

- *Create victim/survivor support units* in the police as well as along the North-South border, and other mechanisms to enable women and girls to report gender-based violence in a safe and confidential environment
- *These units should include* female police officers, psycho-social support counsellors and healthcare workers who are trained in the areas of women's reproductive health and HIV/AIDS so as to meet the specific needs of women, girls, boys as well as men affected by violence, especially sexual violence and by HIV/AIDS

- *Create and strengthen institutional mechanisms* so women and girls can report acts of violence against them in a safe and confidential environment
- *In negotiating cross-border issues*, the negotiating parties should give consideration to the seasonal traditional movement of people and animals and the security implications for women when these populations are armed. This has at times exposed women to gender-based violence, including rape, especially in fights over water and other resources. Security of women on either side of the boundary must be ensured
- Both Northern Sudan and South Sudan should *establish and implement national action plans for resolution 1325* on women, peace and security, and should also implement resolution 1820 on gender-based violence

## Women's Participation

Participants stressed the importance of women participation at all levels as stated above and recommended that the negotiating parties take all appropriate measures to ensure women's effective participation in promoting peace and in conflict-prevention structures and processes.

### ACTION:

- *Form a group of 'parliamentarian women peace keepers'*
- *Make provisions for capacity strengthening* of women peace builders
- *Create an official mechanism for civil society* especially women's groups from both the North and the South, to participate in the process as per the Mekelle Memorandum of Understanding on Post-Referendum Issues and Arrangements (signed by the NCP and SPLM in June 2010)



## 2 Citizenship

### 2.1 the right to choose

Women are concerned about the criteria to be used in defining citizenship because it will affect men and women differently. Single citizenship based on being a Northern or a Southern Sudanese has implications for the family fabric, potentially causing separation of families.

Northern Sudanese with links to the South, and Southern Sudanese with links to the North, should be guaranteed Sudanese Nationality and be accorded the right to acquire Southern Sudanese Citizenship.

#### ACTION:

▣ *the negotiators should consider the awarding of dual citizenship on a selective basis to ensure protection of the rights of particular groups (for example, allowing citizens with long residency in a particular locality the choice of citizenship regardless of their origin)*

▣ *Citizenship criteria should be linked to the human rights of women and the right to choose. The negotiating teams should strive to reach an agreement which avoids discrimination, statelessness and that is not based on forced migration.*

Citizenship should not be based on colour, race, gender or ethnicity but on choice.



### 2.2: property ownership

There are concerns by women that choice of citizenship will have implications for the right to property ownership. There are women and men who have acquired property in the North and others in the South. Relocation will have implications for security and ownership of the property with potential loss of earnings especially if security is not guaranteed.

#### ACTION:

▣ *recommend that the right to property be allowed in both states during the transition period as well as in the future*

## 2.3: trans-boundary populations and seasonal movement

Trans-boundary populations and cross-border issues around citizenship need to be negotiated with due consideration, given the seasonal traditional movement of people and animals. An example given is the Ambororo (Nomads) who move with cattle in search of pasture and spend several months on either side of the border. If they are armed, there are implications for security of women. It is also alleged that on their way back to the North, some incidences of rape of women have been experienced. There is also pressure on resources such as water and competition over use of land for pastures or crop production, which has potential for conflict. The Ambororo (Nomads) know no border as far as the search for pasture is concerned.

### ACTION:

- The *seasonal citizenship issue* needs clear attention and consideration within the law of each state. Women recommend continued rights to traditional movements with special consideration to ensure access by women crossing boundaries in company of their husbands in search of resources. Security of women on either side of the boundary must be ensured

## 2.4: access to services

Women and men, boys and girls are benefitting from access to services such as education and health. The choice of citizenship might deprive them of these services. For instance, students studying in either the North or South will be affected depending on the duration of the interim period within which the choice of citizenship will be affected.

### ACTION:

- **A 5 year interim period** within which the choice of citizenship should be made to allow for adjustment and appropriate choice. In addition, women recommend that both states learn from and adopt, the Four-point agreement between Sudan and Egypt that allows freedom to access health, access Education, to work and to own property

## 3 Economic and natural resources

The women's conference identified three primary concerns about Sudan's Petroleum Sector. They included environmental pollution; lack of transparency; and lack of participation by women in decision making related to the extraction, production and transport of oil.

The conference participants articulated grave concern about the damage done by decades of environmental pollution and degradation and the lack of a strong regulatory policy. Women suffer in specific ways, especially in their role as mothers. The impact of the pollution may affect their reproduction and the health of their children. In addition, the rise in food insecurity and displacement as by-products of the oil sector are growing concerns for women as they face unique risks of violence, intimidation and rape.

Women are also highly concerned about the lack of transparency in the oil sector. In particular the lack of knowledge about how much revenue is going to all parties and states. There is a general consensus that women do not get the benefit of these revenues. Women fear that the lack of transparency will fuel corruption, prevent accountability to communities regarding environmental pollution and hence greatly increase insecurity by contributing to conflict over resources and displacement of communities. .

Finally, women feel that unless they are consistently consulted and are present in key decision-making forums, the outcomes of resulting agreements will not be relevant to *all* citizens of the two future nations, thus increasing instability moving forward.

The group's recommendations all relate to environmental pollution of water, soil and air, causing ill health, food insecurity and displacement of women and their families.

Themes are presented below, followed by recommendations.

### 3.1 health

- ❑ Many women are concerned that because of lack of regulations in handling the by-products of oil, the soil, water and air become contaminated.
- ❑ Numerous women discussed high rates of miscarriage, water and air born diseases, birth defects, child retardation, adverse impacts on the female reproductive system and upper respiratory infections due to high levels of contamination in their communities.
- ❑ Women also noted the lack of access to safe drinking water due to pollution as a cause of poor health. Women are mostly responsible for fetching water to use for food preparation and family health, in addition to food cultivation.

### 3.2 food security

- ❑ As over 70% of Southern Sudanese women are employed in the agricultural sector, contamination of soil and water by environmental pollution negatively impacts on food security. Crops yield less due to weakened soil and what is produced is grown in contaminated soil, both causing numerous adverse effects on women's health.
- ❑ Lowered crop yields cause malnutrition and hunger in families, especially women as they often eat last after preparing and serving food.

- Because of water pollution and soil degradation, conflicts over pastures and water points have become a grave concern. This impacts food security as traditional access to land isn't guaranteed, thus compromising the ability to cultivate food consistently along seasonal patterns.
- It is estimated that over 80% of the country depends on livestock as its source of livelihood. Over 60% in the South depend on it. Livestock depend on the health of the environment for their survival.

### 3.3 displacement (forced & environmental)

- Women noted repeatedly that families have been forcefully displaced for oil production purposes with little or no compensation or resettlement incentives. Displacing families without considering cultural, health and economic implications leads to severe insecurity and community disintegration.
- As women are forced to seek fertile land in remote locations due to either forced or circumstantial displacement, they must travel long distances. This displacement has various adverse impacts on women as they often must walk long distances in unfamiliar territories seeking unpolluted water and soil. Women risk rape, intimidation, and health for these journeys.
- Alienation from family and community ties due to displacement causes extreme psychological and emotional stress in women.

#### ACTION:

- **Commission a full independent audit of the oil sector**, in addition to clarifying production and revenues, specifically include an impact assessment to determine the socio-economic, environmental, health, and security impact to date on communities, embedded with a gendered analysis that deciphers the adverse impact on women by the oil sector practices, specifically related to environmental pollution.
- **Commit significant resources to a women's health and development fund** to go to women's organizations that focus on community health and development. As part of this fund, women encourage the parties to include concessions for women as part of any technical capacity development plan or package moving forward. Measures being taken for capacity development should ensure at least 25% women participate.

# 4

## International treaties, agreements and other legal issues

There are complex political, economic, cultural, ethnic and religious factors that hamper women's equality in Sudan. Traditional social structures in Sudan's diverse societies are male dominated in many aspects of life. These structures inform the role that women play in society and also contribute to the violence that is perpetrated against women and girls. Furthermore, discriminatory laws and practices make it difficult for women to access land, homes and other property, which in turn makes them vulnerable in times of crises.

### 4.1: international conventions that empower women

The participants singled out the following as international treaties and conventions that promote and protect the equality and human dignity of women:

- ❑ The international covenant on the elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) ( not ratified by Sudan)
- ❑ The UN Convention on the rights of the Child (ratified)
- ❑ The UN Convention against Torture, Cruel Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (not ratified)
- ❑ The African Charter on Human and People's Rights (Banjul charter) (ratified)
- ❑ The African charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

The participants also note that there are agreements such as the Nile treaty and other bilateral agreements that touch on the economic, social and cultural lives of women. They also have implications on the environment, water, and sanitation and food security. Women do not know what they are and require the negotiations to examine them critically to ensure that those with onerous implications on the survival and welfare of women are eliminated or renegotiated.

#### ACTION:

- ❑ *Call for the ratification* of the above-mentioned international conventions that empower women by both States
- ❑ *Conclude agreements* in principle to enhance economic cooperation and friendly relations between the North and the South; these should include agreements in principle regarding customs, tariffs, free trade, etc.
- ❑ *Conclude non-aggression pacts*, possibly agreements in principle about other matters such as social services and benefits
- ❑ *Enter into agreements* on matters related to education, culture, scientific exchanges, consular cooperation, and other issues of interest
- ❑ *Conclude more detailed agreements* related to technical cooperation, customs, and free trade

## Action

Detailed action points relating to the four clustered themes of the negotiations are presented in the EXECUTIVE section of this report (pp6-15).

The following actions were also recommended as outcomes of the conference.

- *Increase the transparency and accountability of the negotiations process.* There is a severe dearth of information available to the public on the negotiations process and on progress of talks in the four clusters.
- *Appoint more women members to each cluster's negotiating teams and task forces.* Women's participation in the teams is nowhere near the 25 percent requirement through quotas in the National Elections Act and interim Constitution of South Sudan. Out of 54 members appointed to the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) Task Force, only five are women. Even fewer are present on the National Congress Party's team.
- *Establish and support a team of gender experts to integrate women's perspectives and priorities into the negotiations.* Participants acknowledged with appreciation the role of the African Union's High-Level Implementation Panel headed by President Thabo Mbeki and the presence of a gender officer appointed to advise the Panel. The Panel could further ensure the integration of women's analysis and recommendations by formally establishing an independent team of Sudanese women experts to provide this input equally to both parties along the four cluster areas.
- *Incorporate the gender analysis of cluster areas generated through this conference into the talks and consider carefully women's specific recommendations.* Participants produced a relevant, detailed analysis of how the issues being negotiated in each cluster can affect women differently from men. Without a full understanding of this analysis, negotiators risk reaching agreements that don't reflect true needs and priorities, ultimately jeopardizing sustainability and success of the entire process. In addition to analysis, women recommended specific actions to assist all negotiators and facilitators.



- *Create an official mechanism for civil society to participate in the process.* The agreement guiding the process, the Mekelle Memorandum of Understanding on Post-Referendum Issues and Arrangements (signed by the NCP and SPLM in June 2010), states, "Parties shall discuss ways of involving civil society organizations and the Sudanese community at large, in the process." This involvement must occur in a deliberate and structured manner and be facilitated by official parties and supporters of the talks.

Participants also felt that other areas warrant urgent attention. These include a peaceful solution to the Darfur conflict with meaningful participation of women; constitutional reform and other processes in both the North and the South, the Abyei referendum, instability in Upper Nile, Jongeli, Western Equatorial and elsewhere; Popular Consultation in Southern Kordofan state, the announcement of the outcome of the Popular Consultation in the Southern Blue Nile; and the current situation of women in Northern Sudan.

# APPENDIX 1

## Conference evaluation

Participants were asked six questions about their experience of the conference:

Q1: How satisfied were you with the conference's overall topics?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Very Satisfied	43.2%	35
Satisfied	55.6%	45
Dissatisfied	0.0%	0
Very Dissatisfied	1.2%	1

Q2: How satisfied were you with the conference sessions?		
Very Satisfied	32.1%	26
Satisfied	59.3%	48
Dissatisfied	6.2%	5
Very Dissatisfied	2.5%	2

Q3: Overall, how satisfied were you with the speakers/presenters?		
Very Satisfied	46.9%	38
Satisfied	45.7%	37
Dissatisfied	7.4%	6
Very Dissatisfied	0.0%	0

Q4: Were the lengths of the sessions too long, just about right or too short?		
Too long	17.3%	14
Just about right	49.4%	40
Too short	33.3%	27

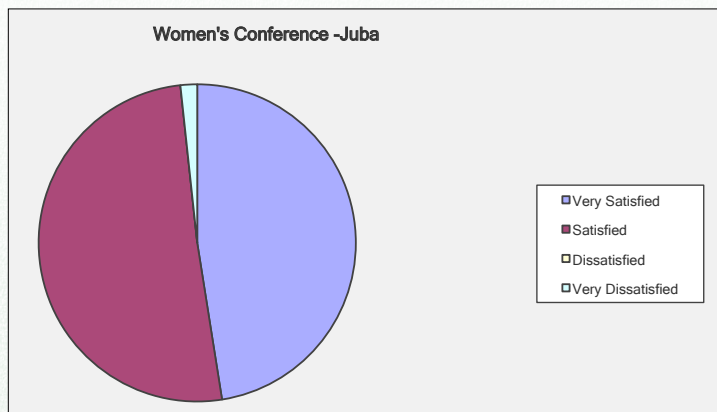
  

Q5: Was the content of the sessions appropriate and informative?		
Strongly Disagree	7.4%	6
Disagree	2.5%	2
Agree	60.5%	49
Strongly Agree	29.6%	24

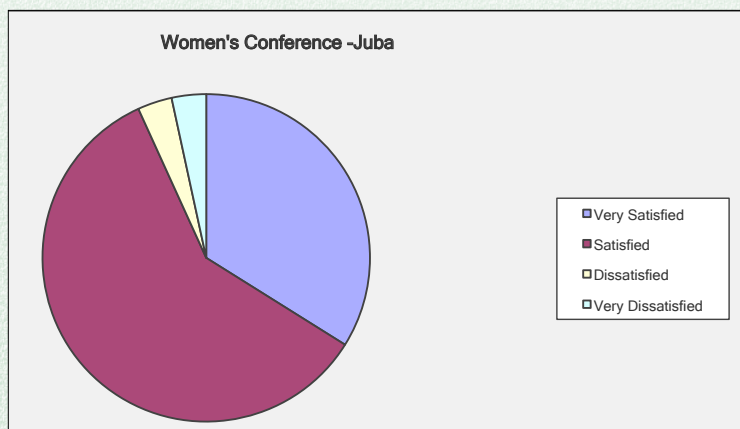
  

Q6: Was the conference was well organized?		
Strongly Disagree	7.4%	6
Disagree	11.1%	9
Agree	50.6%	41
Strongly Agree	30.9%	25

Q1: How satisfied were you with the conference's overall topics?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Very Satisfied	47.5%	28
Satisfied	50.8%	30
Dissatisfied	0.0%	0
Very Dissatisfied	1.7%	1
Answered question		59
Skipped question		0

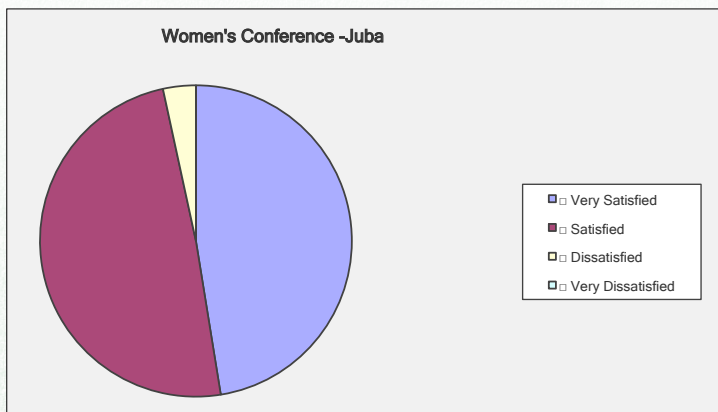


Q2: How satisfied were you with the conference sessions?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Very Satisfied	33.9%	20
Satisfied	59.3%	35
Dissatisfied	3.4%	2
Very Dissatisfied	3.4%	2
Answered question		59
Skipped question		0



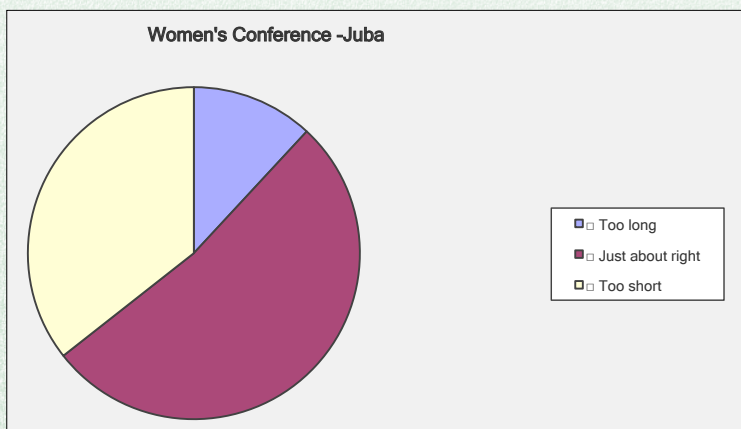
### Q3: Overall, how satisfied were you with the speakers/presenters?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Very Satisfied	47.5%	28
Satisfied	49.2%	29
Dissatisfied	3.4%	2
Very Dissatisfied	0%	0
Answered question		59
Skipped question		0



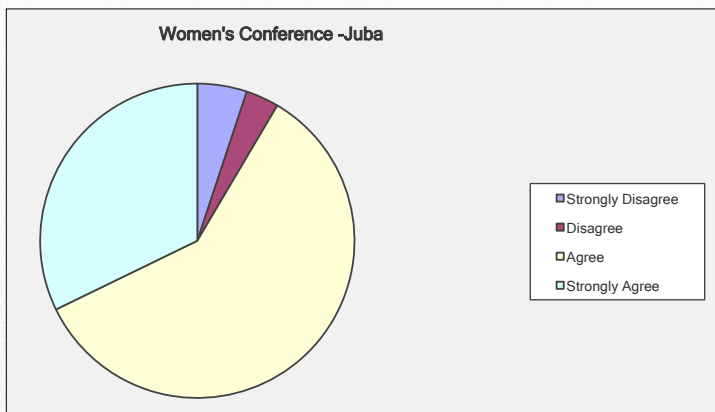
### Q4: Did you feel the length of the sessions were too long, just about right or too short?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Too long	11.9%	7
Just about right	52.5%	31
Too short	35.6%	21
Answered question		59
Skipped question		0



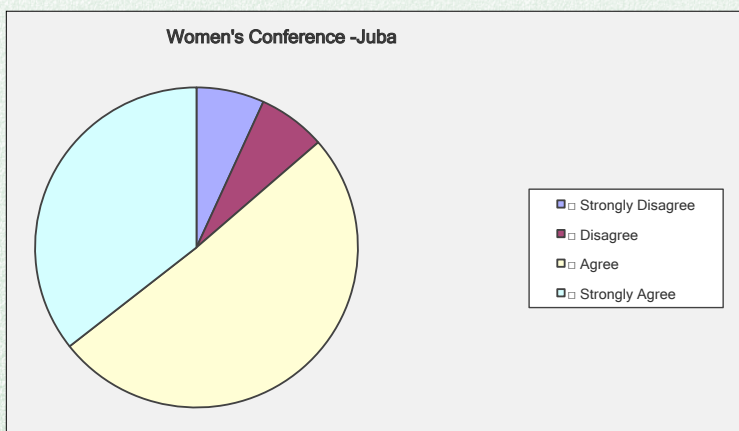
#### Q5: The content of the sessions was appropriate and informative

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Disagree	5.1%	3
Disagree	3.4%	2
Agree	59.3%	35
Strongly Agree	32.2%	19
Answered question		59
Skipped question		0



#### Q6: The conference was well organized...!

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Disagree	6.8%	4
Disagree	6.8%	4
Agree	50.8%	30
Strongly Agree	35.6%	21
Answered question		59
Skipped question		0



#### Q7: What did you like most about the workshop?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
		2
Answered question		2
Skipped question		57

Q8: What didn't you like about the workshop?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
		59
Answered question		59
Skipped question		0

Q9: In what ways could this workshop be improved?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
		0
Answered question		0
Skipped question		59

Q9: Have you interacted at least with one or two of the following organizations? If yes, in which way?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Azande Organization	0.0%	0
Equatoria Sudanese Community Association	0.0%	0
Lost Boys Face Foundation	0.0%	0
African Diaspora Peace Makers Network	0.0%	0
Arizona Lost Boys Center	0.0%	0
Canadian Against Slavery & Torture in Sudan	0.0%	0
Community of Sudanese & American Women/Men	0.0%	0
Darfur Human Rights	0.0%	0
DOK Sudanese Community Association	0.0%	0
Equatoria Sudanese Community Association	0.0%	0
Government of South Sudan Mission (GOSS) USA	0.0%	0
Hearts of Angels for Health Sudan Initiative	0.0%	0
Kare Project Voice	0.0%	0
Lost Boys & Girls Networks	0.0%	0
Lost Boys Initiative	0.0%	0
Lost Generation & Orphans Recover	0.0%	0
Luo Community of Bahar El Ghazal in North	0.0%	0
My Sister's Keeper	0.0%	0
North American Sudanese Consultants, LLP	0.0%	0
Nuba Growth Partnership	0.0%	0
Nuba Mountains International Association	0.0%	0
Otuho Community of North America	0.0%	0
Rebuilding Hope	0.0%	0
South Sudan Health Care Organization	0.0%	0
South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network	0.0%	0
South Sudanese Community Center of San Diego	0.0%	0
Southern Sudanese Community at Metropolitan DC	0.0%	0
Sudan Freedom Walk	0.0%	0
Sudan Unlimited	0.0%	0
Sudanese Kush Liberation Movement	0.0%	0
The Institute of Sustainable Peace	0.0%	0
United Sudanese Youth	0.0%	0
World Relief Organization	0.0%	0
Answered question		0
Skipped question		59

## APPENDIX 2

### Conference presentations

H.E. Agnes Kwaje Lasuba



*"The Republic of South Sudan needs to be nurtured - we the women are prepared and committed to do so and be the vanguards"* - Minister Lasuba in her official speech to the participants and guests of the conference. She went on to draw parallels between two forms of gender needs, which she described as:

### Gender practical needs (GPNs)

- GPNs arise from the conditions women and men experience as the result of the roles assigned to them by society, and are related to basic needs to human services. They are concerned about improving the working conditions of women and men in service provisions such as education, health, sanitation, clean drinking water, food sufficiency etc. GPNs will not remove women sub-ordination by men, but will improve provision of basic needs.

### Strategic Gender Needs (SGNs)

- These are tools to alert the planner of development programs/projects to address structural challenges regarding women empowerment.

- They seek to change the socio-economic and political statuses for women to help them achieve equality and have freedom of choice and expressions.
- They include legislation for equal rights and increase participation decision making.

Minister Lasuba reminded the audience about the indispensable role women play in our communities. In her conclusion she reinforced the importance of addressing strategic gender needs and including women in all levels of government and key decision making positions so that they can achieve the change they have been advocating for.

H.E. Pagan Amum's speech



*"The post-referendum negotiations are about addressing outstanding issues that will affect the relations between the South and the North in the period after the referendum. Our overarching strategic goal in these negotiations is to ensure a suitable and just peace between the south and the north and to prevent any return to war."* - H.E. Amum in his official address to the participants of the conference.

H.E. Amum gave a presentation on the progress of the post referendum negotiations between the two parties, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the Notational Congress Party. He also updated the audience on the outstanding issues in the four clusters: Citizenship, Security, Financial/Economic and Natural Resource, and International Treaties and Legal Issues. The updates shed light on unresolved issues and the progress made in each cluster. Below is a brief summary of these issues.

## A. Citizenship

Guaranteeing the rights of southern Sudanese and northern Sudanese genuinely linked to either territory to retain their Sudanese citizenship or acquire the citizenship of the new state.

## B. Security

The status of security arrangement in the two states of Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan within the context of popular consultations; this has a direct bearing on the JIU redeployment and the deployment of SPLA with respect to the large contingent of the SPLA forces from the areas.

1. The existence of southern Sudanese militia group that are supported, financed and armed by certain quarters in the north with the purpose of destabilizing southern Sudan.
2. The security working group will continue to address these issues with the hope of arriving at an agreement to prevent a return to war between the two states and to maintain peace during the post referendum period.

## C. Financial, Economic and Natural Resource

The SPLM requested information and document disclosure on assets, oil debts and foreign exchange reserves to be able to negotiate a detailed agreement on these issues.

Members of the four sub working groups have attended a number of exposures with invited experts from the international monetary Fund (IMF), petroleum experts and representatives of the three oil companies operating in South Sudan. The discussions have resumed after the referendum and the parties are expected to reach agreement before the end of the interim period.

## D. International Treaties and Legal Issues

In the first meeting of the working group on 9th August 2010, the SPLM requested disclosures on the following:

- a. a list of all international agreements, conventions and treaties to which the government of Sudan is currently a party;
- b. copies of all declarations and/or reservations that the republic of Sudan has to any agreements, conventions or treaties to which it is a party or not; and
- c. copies of bilateral agreements to which the Sudan is a party.

The working group agreed on the agenda and its guiding principles. The agenda addresses the legal implications of the results of the referendum. The two sides are to identify the international agreements and conventions to discuss which ones South Sudan must automatically become part of now that the people have chosen secession. Also, agreements in which southern Sudan shall exercise its sovereign discretion to join or renegotiate especially with regards to bilateral agreements. The parties also discussed the need, despite resolution mechanisms to develop with respect to international agreements and on the issue of the recognition of the new state.

H.E. Amum ended his presentation by urging the women of South Sudan to take up their rights and to fully participate in the development of their new nation.

### H.E. Amira Al Fadil' speech



H.E. Amira Al Fadil was received at the airport by her counterpart in the Government of Southern Sudan, H.E. Agnes Kwaje Lasuba, and representatives from the Southern Sudan Women's Empowerment Network and the Institute for Inclusive Security. The two ministers held a joint press conference at Juba International Airport, where, besides addressing other important matters, they re-affirmed their commitment to work together to resolve the outstanding issues concerning their ministries before and after July 9th.

When she addressed the participants and guests at the venue of the conference, Minister Al Fadil

congratulated Southerners on their choice of secession. She reminded the audience about the long relationship between the North and the South and the common plight of Sudanese women during the way, saying *“the relationship between South Sudan and North Sudan are historical. Separation should not bring it to an end. The sufferings of the war were the suffering of all women in the Sudan. The women in the North suffered as the women in the South.”*

## H.E. Awut Deng Acuil



*“I want to congratulate the women of Southern Sudan for their great achievement during the Referendum. The numbers that I saw showed the turnout among women was very high.”* In very strong words, Minister Acuil avowed her commitment to advancing women’s issues. She went on to say she has made it her life mission to ensure that women are not disadvantaged in any way. She urged the organizers of the conference to make sure their voices are heard, especially by leaders in decision-making positions.

Minster Awut, who sits on the Citizenship Cluster in the post referendum negotiations, answered questions raised by the conference participants about citizenship statuses after July 9th. She also answered questions about pensions and explained the resolution of the Government of Southern Sudan to resolve outstanding pension issues.

## Madam Anglina Teny’s speech



*“Do I know what women are saying? Am I aware of their concerns? Does what they discuss reach me as someone who sits on one of the post referendum clusters? Is there a communication link between me and women in this room?”* These were the first questions uttered by Madam Angelina Teny as she took the floor in the Panel Discussion on Referendum Arrangements.

Madam Teny hammered home the point that women need a platform not only to discuss issues of common concern but to also ensure their voices are heard by the concerned authorities.

Madam Teny gave an overview of the progress of negotiations in the economic cluster. She also touched on the progress of the other three clusters. At the end of her presentation, Madam Teny urged organizers to finalize the resolutions of the conference as soon as possible because the post referendum negotiations will resume in March, 2011.

## Meron Genene, Gender and Political Officer-AUHIP



In a presentation entitled ‘Post Referendum issues, structure and process’, Ms. Meron talked about:

- The African Union High Implementation Panel (AUHIP) mandate;
- Structure of the post referendum negotiations;
- Mekelle MOU;
- The four clusters and sequencing of issues;
- Role of AUHIP: Facilitator;
- Role and Duties of the Joint Technical Team;
- Role of Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC); and
- Role of AUHIP-Gender.

Ms. Meron talked extensively about the AUHIP-Gender recognizing the fact that gender issues were of particular interest to the conference participants. She described the role of the AUHIP-Gender as:

- Offering advice to the AUHIP in its dealing with the parties in regards to mainstreaming gender perspective into the analyses of policy solutions to Sudan's many issues
- Promoting the mainstreaming of gender concerns in the AUHIP's assistance to the parties as they conclude agreements on post-referendum arrangements; working closely with the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation to mainstream gender into reconciliation efforts at the local level between the various communities
- Contributing towards gender sensitive democratic transformation of Sudan.

Ms. Meron closed her presentation by highlighting the continuous efforts of the AUHIP-Gender to advise the Panel on gender sensitive approaches of the negotiation effort. She also mentioned an ongoing MOU with UNIFEM to implement a series of activities on gender and post referendum arrangements issues.

## Njoki S. Ndungu, EBS

Njoki S. Ndungu talked about the critical success factors for moving forwards and ensuring women play a vital role in the future of Sudan. She elaborated the:

**Context:** issues including religious, cultural, media and educational domains and the politics of power and gender relations

**Legacy:** looking ahead to consider what individual and group legacies will be in the Sudan of the future, how lives will be changed and people remembered

**Strategy:** important issues such as understanding the environment, distinguishing between easiest and hardest options, risk of isolation, abuse and personal attack, concepts of 'male' and 'female' fear, and the different strategies of 'carrot' and 'stick'

**Positioning:** contrasting quantitative and qualitative (numbers vs capacity) change and looking at strategic positioning in Cabinet, Parliament, political parties and the civil service

**Return on investment:** financial and economic aspects of change from government level to small business

**Sharing human resources:** strategic use of available people, sharing of roles, identifying expertise, monitoring quality

Kenya: looking at Kenya's experience of constitutional review (including citizenship, bill of rights, access to justice)

**Negotiation and navigation:** urging women to bring as many issues to the 'table' as possible, knowing some will be lost but others accepted, working tactically with gender (feminine and feminist) and keeping a focus on the bigger picture.

## Other Speakers

Senator Mobina Jaffer and Dr. Priscilla Nyanyang both admired the courage and resolve of women in general and South Sudanese women in particular. They lauded the organizers of the conference for providing such an opportunity for women to voice their concerns.

## Justice Chan Reec Madut

*"I am very pleased and I congratulate this Women August gathering. I see before me a picture of Women from South Sudan, North Sudan, Europe, America, Africa and Elsewhere. This is the kind of rainbow community the late Dr. John Garang used to talk about as the ideal community for the New Sudan which has all kinds of people irrespective of their backgrounds."*

Justice Chan stressed the importance of women in the society. He used the analogy of the Biblical story in Genesis where God himself knew from day one of creation that human life was, meaningless without a woman. That was why he hurried to create Eve and placed her beside Adam as his wife.

Women had made remarkable performance in history and in our contemporary context; we all know the quality care women offer to their families and communities. Besides, *"there is not a single thing which men can and which the women cannot do"*. Women had participated and continued the spirited manner even in the most arduous tasks like SPLA/M warfare. What else is needed to show that these members of the fair sex or 'Aljinis Alnaim' as they call them in Arabic, are not our exact equals and indispensable component of humanity?

He queried male chauvinists, who have problems with their wives or with women in general and urged them to step out of that mindset and think of women in terms of their little daughters or sisters. *"Would you like your daughters to be confined to the kitchen and live as sub-humans simply because they happened to be created as females?"*

He thanked the late visionary leader Dr John Garang De Mabior for his endeavours for women's

emancipation, and for his brainchild goal of empowerment through 25% women participation in Government. He reminded the women that this had already been implemented through the constitution of Southern Sudan and called on them to wake up and demand their economic, social and political rights as matter of their fundamental right.

## Prof Mohamed Ibrahim Kalil: Speaks On Greatness of a woman

He expressed his happiness for the efforts made to gather the participant in the conference that sought to ensure successful deliberations with procedures. *"I am surprised that you are taking this initiative to manifest greatness of the woman".*

Monanalo paulino had said the great constitution is the making of a referendum success; he is the one who started this idea of gender development which began with his regime and later represented various democracies.

A few years ago, I tried to find out an idea about the origin of "sin" which I did, one evening I matched in one of the libraries in town and picked a book titled "Centre of Dominion In Islam" with a suggestion woman is shameful in the world, but I really wondered without Eve nobody would be here, Moses would not have been saved without his mother. Even Jesus Christ, men like Prophet Mohamed, God made of him a famous man as well, because of a woman.

Take it from me, Greatness of a woman is a fact of nation and lives, to see you here is not surprising at it takes gratitude and envisage the role of a woman in the post referendum so that it is used for public opinion in Sudan. He appealed to participants not to allow challenges timid to make then scared in pursuing their aims and objectives.

Prof Ibrahim asserted that on daily occasion there are greater challenges which women must meet however when there are greater challenges, the greater is the lead and determination in life, he emphasized.

In a conversation I had with Justice Reec Chan which he mentioned, no voters should intimidate women's rights. Women should not be intimidated by any voter, Voters affirmative action was meant to hold on the former injustices against the women but many argued against it whether it is on basis of human rights or constitutional law that had happened in India, when it had just become an independent country.

It was then used to intimidate the lower class society especially women perpetuated by some people who wanted affirmative action to hold onto former injustices. In USA for example, greatness of a woman is recognized; nobody is supposed to be intimidated even if you belong to lower class.

He said that most participants builds consensus and everybody should be allowed to exercise their human right without limitation in the referendum, all injustices is unconstitutional to anybody especially these members of female sex. We are all working against injustices but for equally and freedoms.



